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**Subject:** DRAFT -- Monuments Talking Points and Myth vs. Fact  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2017 2:11:18 PM  
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Hi all --

Attached please find the talking points and myth vs. fact sheet for the Monument Review. Please note that they are at their max word length (to keep them on 2 and 1 pages, respectively), so let me know what should come out if you are adding.

Also, they do not include the Utah-specific information, which will be announced on Monday. This is a great backgrounder for the groups who will be part of the stakeholder call tomorrow as well as any other friends you deem appropriate.

Let me know by COB tonight if you have any edits as we need to start sending them around tomorrow. Please do NOT share this version yet.

Thank you,  
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# **TALKING POINTS FOR ANTIQUITIES ACT/MONUMENT REVIEW**

**\*Restoring Past Overreach\***

**\*Increasing Public Access\***

**\*Giving Local Communities a Voice by Restoring Traditional Uses\***

**\*Continuing Protection Where Warranted\***

## **Key points:**

- The President is righting past overreach. The Act requires only objects of significance are designated, within the smallest area compatible, and we are going to follow the law.
- The Trump Administration is increasing the public access that has been restricted by monument designations.
- The Trump Administration is making sure local communities have a voice by restoring traditional “multiple use” activities on these lands.
  - This will increase economic competitiveness, especially in rural communities, by allowing grazing, commercial fishing, logging, and in some cases, mineral development.
- The Trump Administration is continuing to protect public land, including keeping parts of monuments to protect objects of significance within the smallest areas compatible.
  - The Trump Administration is *not* going to drill in public parks
  - The Trump Administration is *not* going to sell public lands
  - The Trump Administration *will* protect objects in the “smallest area compatible” with the proper care of the objects to be protected.

## **Monuments and Sportsmen:**

- Access to public lands is absolutely vital to hunting and fishing. It’s one thing to say land is “public land” however if the land is physically inaccessible or certain uses are banned, problems arise.
- Many monument proclamations specify that hunting and fishing will be permitted within the monument, however it is common for monument designations to prevent construction of future roads or management plans allow many roads to fall into disrepair, making the land inaccessible for hunting.
- Recently, proclamations have removed guarantees for recreational access and hunting from management plans as wilderness designations have become a favorite tool of environmentalists.
- Anti-hunting groups often push for monument designations and simultaneously plan to lobby for bans on hunting and shooting access during the management plan process which occurs after designation.
- Further, these groups hope that these National Monuments eventually become National Parks. There several examples of National Parks that were first designated as monuments.

## **Background on the Antiquities Act:**

- The Antiquities Act calls for the President to designate objects such as “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest.”
- The Act mandates that the limits of the parcels of land reserved as National Monuments “shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected”, and be designated on federal land.
- Despite this clear directive, objects have been extended to include landscape areas, biodiversity, view sheds, and ‘smallest area’ has become the exception and not the rule.
- Objects have oftentimes been selected only to fill in pre-identified boundaries that mirror failed Congressional attempts to designate areas under protective designations.
- Monument boundaries often encompass or are adjacent to private land, and in one case a monument expansion contained 38% private land within the external boundary.
- The most controversial monuments were designated or expanded in the waning days of a presidency after partisan efforts to designate the land stalled in Congress. This is a clear violation of the will of the People and overuse of executive power.
- Presidents have reduced the size of monuments around 19 times in the past. The most significant reduction was in 1915 under President Woodrow Wilson, when he halved Mount Olympus National Monument (it has since become a National Park).
- On April 26, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order 13792, entitled “Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act.”
- President Trump’s executive order limited the review to monuments designated after January 1, 1996 and over 100,000 acres in size, or monuments that the Secretary deems to have been created without adequate public input.
- The order directed the Secretary to submit an interim report on Bears Ears National Monument within 45 days, which was delivered to the White House on June 10, 2017.
- The order directed the Secretary to submit a report on all other monuments under review within 120 days, August 24, 2017.

## **Background on the Monument Review Process:**

- The Secretary opened up of a formal comment period for the review. This is the first time EVER that a formal comment period was open on regulations.gov for national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.
- Secretary Zinke has visited eight national monument sites in six states (Bears Ears, Grand Staircase, Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine Monument, Katahdin Woods and Waters, Cascade Siskyou, Organ Mountains Desert Peaks, Gold Butte, and Basin and Range). He's held dozens of meetings with Tribal, local and state government officials, local stakeholders, and advocates from conservation, agriculture, tourism, and historic preservation organizations. The Secretary met with people and organizations who represent all sides of the issue. (PS - He traveled to Giant Sequoia and Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monuments before the review)
- Interior also established a formal public comment period for the monument review. This is the first time ever a formal comment period occurred for Antiquities Act-designated National Monuments.

## **FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review**

***Myth:*** *No president has shrunk a monument.*

**False:** Monuments have been shrunk at least ten times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include Pres. John F. Kennedy removing 2882 acres from Bandelier, Presidents Taft, Wilson, Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

***Myth:*** *The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.*

**False:** This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the sale or transfer of public lands. Under the Antiquities Act, the monuments are designated on already federal land. Therefore, if any monument is rescinded or shrunk, the land would remain federally owned and be managed by one of the land management agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Park Service.

***Myth:*** *Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects at risk.*

**False:** This is not true. Whether these objects are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, traditional BLM land, or other federal land, it is illegal to remove or disrupt the objects without a permit issued by the federal government.

***Myth:*** The monument review will close/sell/transfer national parks.

**False:** No national parks are under review. Of the 27 national monuments that are under review, only 2 are managed by the National Park Service and neither of them were recommended for rescission or boundary adjustments. The Secretary has continually committed he is against the sale/transfer/privatization of public lands, especially national parks. While two of the monuments are managed by the NPS - much like historic sites, national recreation areas, and national seashores - none of them are National Parks.

***Myth:*** *The review was done without meeting advocates for national monuments.*

**False:** The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally had more than 60 meetings with hundreds of local stakeholders. Individuals and organizations represented all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and Nature Conservancy to county commissioners and, residents, and ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

***Myth:*** *Tribal Nations were not consulted.*

**False:** This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for just under two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.